

From: Cranford, Stephen C CIV
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Disappointed in compromise

I'm extremely disappointed in the compromise proposed by the Justice Department. Microsoft, even with the threat of the Justice department hanging over their heads, has continued, in the Microsoft XP product, to conduct illegal trading practices. Specifically, Microsoft is packaging free firewall software into it's OS. Like a drug dealer hooking the new unsuspecting junky, Microsoft has announced that it will provide the software free for a short period of time. The new junkies, I mean Users, will become accustomed to the firewall interface, software venders will write software that can work with the product, and then Microsoft will start charging for its use. Why would a consumer go out and obtain a similar product when Microsoft is already giving it to them bundled in their OS, free? The answer is, they won't.

I was disappointed that the breakup of Microsoft was pushed off the list of penalties for the company. Their OS is substandard to almost every other OS on the market. It lacks administrative support for enterprise usage, and even after stealing innovations from all the other OS's (to many to name), it lacks ease of use and reliability. Just look at how users in your own office fix problems on their Personal Computers. I bet it is the new and improved Microsoft way, they reboot them. Before Microsoft, it was rarely necessary to reboot a machine, just to fix a problem. Downtime in the office was almost non-existent. Even with its proven track record of crashing unexpectedly, it is still forcing it's way in to our nations datacenters. I feel the only reason that it has managed to permeate into every corner of the market place is due to their office products and the need to provide compatibility for them. Since their office products are so tied into their OS, a user is required to buy their OS to run their office products. Other people wanted to share documents and information, so they bought similar office software and now Microsoft is everywhere.

A truly open market would have Microsoft building their office products for all commercial OS's (Solaris, Linux, HP-UX, MAC). The only way that can happen is if Microsoft Office and the other Microsoft software is excised from the Microsoft OS and their profits are not tied together.

My perfect IT world is one where I have the choice to choose the best OS. The choice to add any software package that I want, and have that software compatible with all other similar software packages.